

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 19, and 20 are independent. Claims 1-20 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. The Title is hereby amended.

Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13, 19, and 20 were objected to on formal grounds. These claims have been amended, thereby obviating the objections.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,345,288 to Reed et al. (hereinafter, merely "Reed").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"An information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:
recording means for recording the identification information
pertinent to a second information processing apparatus;

receiving means for receiving the identification information ... to identify said second information processing apparatus;
verifying means for verifying whether said identification information received by said receiving means has been recorded in said second recording means... (emphasis added)....

As understood by Applicants, Reed relates to software programs that are executed by a provider computer and consumer computer. The computers communicate directly in order to maintain a communications control structure. This structure originates at the provider computer and is transferred to the consumer computer. Changes to the structure on the provider computer result in an updated version being transferred to the consumer computer.

Applicants submit that Reed describes changes to structure that originates at the provider computer and is transferred to the consumer computer. Applicants submit that Reed does not disclose or suggest an apparatus having a recording means for recording the identification information pertinent to a second apparatus, a receiving means, which identifies the identification information, and a verifying means to check whether the identification information has been recorded, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Reed that would teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, Reed does not teach or suggest the recording means for recording the identification information pertinent to a second information processing apparatus; receiving means for receiving the identification information to identify the second information processing apparatus; and verifying means for verifying whether said identification information received by said receiving means has been recorded in said recording means, as recited in claim 1.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, the other independent claims are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

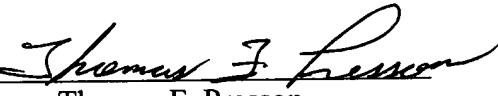
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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